

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 SUVA 00969 110341Z

21

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-14 USIA-04 OMB-01 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 082900

R 092300Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3402

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN 02

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 969

HICOMTERPACIS FOR HICOM AND STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON PFOR SPC

SUBJ: 14TH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, RARATONGA, COOK ISLANDS,

SEPT 25-OCT 4

1. SUMMARY. 1974 SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE HAD PERSONAL STAMP OF CHAIRMAN, COOK ISLANDS PREMIER SIR ALBERT HENRY. SIR ALBERT MADE MOST OF ATTENDANCE BY FIVE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AND TWO CHIEF MINISTERS, AND HAILED SIGNING OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AS SIGNIFICANT STEP IN DECOLONIZATION. CONFERENCE STEERED CLEAR OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (SUCH AS THE MEMORANDUM AND FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING), AND CONFERENCE BUSINESS HANDLED WITH UNACCUSTOMED SPEED. IN SPITE OF INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS, INFLATION AND RECENT DEVALUATION OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR PLACE SPC IN SOME ECONOMIC DIFFICULTY. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SUVA 00969 110341Z

2. FOLLOWING REPORT SUBMITTED BY DEPT OFF. HOWARD H. LANGE UPON ARRIVAL FROM 14TH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, RARATONGA,

COOK ISLANDS. SENIOR COMMISSIONER STANLEY S. CARPENTER HAS READ AND APPROVED.

3. CONFERENCE CONCLUDED OCTOBER 4 UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF SIR ALBERT HENRY, PREMIER OF COOK ISLANDS. CONFERENCE FROM BEGINNING TO END DOMINATED BY SIR ALBERT, WHO PUT PREMIUM ON DEMONSTRATING VITALITY OF POLYNESIAN CULTURE AND HOSPITALITY IN THE COOKS, AND ON SUPPRESSING EXPRESSIONS OF DISCONTENT AMONG FELLOW ISLAND DELEGATES.

4. EARLIEST DEMONSTRATION OF SIR ALBERT'S PERSUASIVE POWERS RELATED TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH MERGES CONFERENCE AND FORMER SESSION. MEMORANDUM, WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED BY SPC MEMBER GOVERNMENTS IN WELLINGTON IN MARCH, AND WHICH ALL MEMBERS INDICATED THEIR WILLINGNESS TO SIGN AT BEGINNING OF CONFERENCE, IN EFFECT MAKES SESSION, WHICH IN EARLY DAYS OF SPC WAS CONTROLLING BODY OF ORGANIZATION, INTO STANDING COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE, THE COMMITTEE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS (CRPG). MEMORANDUM RETAINS SOME FEATURES OF CANBERRA AGREEMENT OFFENSIVE TO ISLAND TERRITORIES AND COUNTIES, SUCH AS WEIGHTED VOTING IN CRPG BUT CHAIRMAN QUASHED ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN ISLAND DELEGATIONS TO OPEN DEBATE ON THESE MATTERS. CRPG IN FACT STRENGTHENED SOMEWHAT, AS ADOPTION OF MOTION BY FIJI GIVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY TO PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS OVERSEEING ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.

5. CONFERENCE ATTRACTED HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATION FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, AUSTRALIAN PM WHITLAM APPEARED FOR ONE DAY, THE FIRST ATTENDANCE BY METROPOLITAN POWER HEAD OF GOVERNMENT IN HISTORY OF SPC. MINISTER OF SCIENCE MORRISON ATTENDED MOST OF CONFERENCE FOR AUSTRALIA. NEW ZEALAND ROWLING ALSO VISITED RARATONGA, CONVEYING WELL- RECEIVED RE-AFFIRMATION OF SOUTH PACIFIC POLICIES OF THE LATE NORMAN KIRK. OTHERS ATTENDING CONFERENCE WERE PM RATU MARA OF FIJI, PM FIAME MATAAFIA OF WESTERN SAMOA, PRESIDENT HAMMER DE ROBERT OF NAURU, LEADER OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS ROBERT REX OF NIUE, AND THE FIRST CHIEF MINISTER OF THE UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SUVA 00969 110341Z

GILBERT AND ELICE ISLANDS, NABOUA RATIETA.

6. STATEMENT BY FRANCE JUST PRIOR TO CONFERENCE THAT ATMOSPHERIC TESTING AT AN END APPARENTLY HELPFUL, AND SUBJECT DID NOT COME UP FOR DISCUSSION. DETERMINATION OF CHAIRMAN TO AVOID CONTROVERSY ALSO POSSIBLE FACTOR.

7. ONCE NEW CONFERENCE RULES OF PROCEDURE ADOPTED, REMAINDER OF AGENDA HANDLED SMOOTHLY AND WITH RECORD SPEED. NEW COMMITTEE OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS OPERATION SOMEWHAT

MORE LABORED, AND WORK ON FINANCES HAMPERED BY HIGHER THAN ANTICIPATED INFLATION IN SPC AREA, AND BY RECENT DEVALUATION OF AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR, IN WHICH SPC CONTRIBUTIONS DONATED. IN SPITE OF INCREASE OF 15F IN ASSESSED BUDGET, AND CONTINUATION OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, 1975 BUDGET SHOWS SIZEABLE SHORTFALL.

8. U.S.-PROPOSED AGENDA ITEM ON SUPPORT FROM INSTITUTIONS AND NON-MEMBER GOVERNMENTS OCCASIONED CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF MOTION GENERALLY IN ACCORD WITH U.S. POSITION.

9. ONE OF MOST EMOTIONAL ITEMS WAS PROPOSED SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK. COOK ISLANDS AND GUAM LOBBIED VIGOROUSLY FOR CONTINUED LIFE OF CONCEPT, AND U.S. POSITION DISCUSSED EXTENSIVELY WITH USDEL OUTSIDE CONFERENCE. SENIOR COMMISSIONER ALSO INFORMED SECGEN THAT U.S. COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO SUCH A BANK. USDEL, IN VIEW OF MUTE OPPOSITION OF OTHER POSSIBLE DONORS TO BANK, RISKED IRE OF TERRITORIES BY WATERING DOWN ALREADY WEAK MOTION ON BANK. RESULTING RESOLUTION KEEPS IDEA ALIVE BUT SHOULD INSURE SLOW DEMISE.

10. NOTING THAT PAPUA NEW GUINEA IS APPROACHING INDEPENDENCE, CONFERENCE REQUESTED PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE NECESSARY STAPS TO BRING PNG INTO SPC AS MEMBER GOVERNMENT AT APPROPRIATE TIME. RESPONDING TO SUGGESTION OF CHAIRMAN CONFERENCE ALSO REQUESTED CONSIDERATION OF NAME FOR SPC TO REFLECT INCLUSION OF TERRITORIES NORTH OF EQUATOR. THIS OF COURSE WELCOMED BY GUAM AND TTPI, AND BY U.S.

11. AUSTRALIAN DEL LEADER MORRISON POSED QUESTION OF WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SUVA 00969 110341Z

BY END OF DECADE WHEN NEARLY ALL ISLANDS WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, BOTH FORUM AND SPC NECESSARY. MORRISON INVITED REACTION TO POSSIBILITY REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 1977 TO EXAMINE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF SPC.

12. COMMENT. ALBERT HENRY'S DICTATORIAL METHOD OF RUNNING CONFERENCE WENT LARGEY UNCHALLENGED, BUT WAS RESENTED BY MANY SMALLER ISLAND DELEGATIONS. NO MOTIONS WENT TO VOTE, FOR EXAMPLE, AS CHAIRMAN RAILROADED ALL BY ACCLAMATION. ALTHOUGH ISLAND DELEGATIONS CAME PREPARED TO DISCUSS WORK PROGRAM, PRIORITIES SET BY MAY PLANNING COMMITTEE ADOPTED VIRTUALLY WITHOUT DISCUSSION. ALBERT HENRY ONE OF MOST DURABLE AND RESPECTED ISLAND LEADERS, BUT UNDISGUISED ATTEMPT TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY OUT OF CONFERENCE BEFORE DECEMBER ELECTIONS IN COOK ISLANDS NOT APPRECIATED BY MOST DELEGATIONS. NEVERTHELESS, MERGER OF CONFERENCE AND SESSION SIGNIFICANT AND CONFERENCE CAN BE CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL ON THIS COUNT ALONE.

SELDEN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, BUDGETS, MEETING CHAIRMAN, INFLATION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SUVA00969
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740289-0445
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741058/aaaabxsg.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 14TH SOUTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE, RARATONGA, COOK ISLANDS, SEPT 25-OCT 4
TAGS: OCON, PFOR, XP, US, SPC, (LANGE, HOWARD H), (HENRY, ALBERT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005